

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus ~~A low power radio frequency transceiver arranged to form a network of communicating low power radio frequency transceivers~~ comprising:
a transmitter for transmitting packets of data; and
means for controlling the transmitter to transmit a series of messages of a first type outside ~~the~~ a network of low power radio frequency transceivers, the apparatus being arranged to form the network of transceivers,
means for punctuating the series of messages of a first type with messages of a second type, transmitted within the network of transceivers, for maintaining synchronization.
2. (Currently Amended) The apparatus ~~A low power radio frequency transceiver~~ as claimed in claim 1 arranged to operate as a master of the radio network of slave transceivers.
3. (Currently Amended) The apparatus ~~A low power radio frequency transceiver~~ as claimed in claim 1 wherein the network of transceivers uses a first frequency hopping sequence.
4. (Currently Amended) The apparatus ~~A low power radio frequency transceiver~~ as claimed in claim 3 wherein the messages of a first type transmitted outside the network of transceivers are transmitted using a second frequency hopping sequence.
5. (Currently Amended) The apparatus ~~A low power radio frequency transceiver~~ as claimed in claim 1 wherein the messages of the second type are broadcast.
6. (Currently Amended) The apparatus ~~A low power radio frequency transceiver~~ as claimed in claim 1 wherein the means for punctuating, punctuates the series of messages of a first type with a message of a second type periodically.

7. (Currently Amended) The apparatus ~~A low power radio frequency transceiver~~ as claimed in claim 1 wherein the messages of the second type do not initiate a response from any of the transceivers in the network.

8. (Currently Amended) The apparatus ~~A low power radio frequency transceiver~~ as claimed in claim 1 wherein the messages of the second type comprise a synchronization word dependent upon the identity of the apparatus ~~transmitting low power radio frequency transceiver~~.

9. (Currently Amended) The apparatus ~~A low power radio frequency transceiver~~ as claimed in claim 1 wherein messages of the second type are transmitted at a frequency dependent upon the identity of the apparatus ~~transmitting low power radio frequency transceiver~~.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~A method of maintaining synchronisation in a network of communicating low power radio frequency transceivers comprising a master transceiver and at least one slave transceiver, the method~~ comprising:

punctuating a series of messages of a first type transmitted by ~~a~~ the master transceiver outside ~~a~~ the network of low power radio frequency transceivers, the network of transceivers comprising the master transceiver and at least one slave transceiver, with messages of a second type transmitted within the network of communicating transceivers for maintaining synchronization.

11. (Previously Presented) A storage medium for data, comprising computer code for providing, in a low power radio frequency transceiver, means for punctuating transmission of a series of messages of a first type comprising a first synchronization word independent of the identity of the low power radio frequency transceiver, with messages of a second type comprising a second synchronization word dependent upon the identity of the low power radio frequency transceiver.

12. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 10, wherein the network of transceivers uses a first frequency hopping sequence.

13. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 12, wherein the messages of a first type transmitted outside the network of transceivers are transmitted using a second frequency hopping sequence.

14. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 10, wherein the messages of the second type are broadcast.

15. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 10, wherein the series of messages of a first type are punctuated with a message of a second type periodically.

16. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 10, wherein the messages of the second type do not initiate a response from any of the transceivers in the network.

17. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 10, wherein the messages of the second type comprise a synchronization word dependent upon the identity of the transmitting low power radio frequency transceiver.

18. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 10, wherein messages of the second type are transmitted at a frequency dependent upon the identity of the transmitting low power radio frequency transceiver.

19. (Currently Amended) An apparatus ~~A low power radio frequency transceiver arranged to form a network of communicating low power radio frequency transceivers~~ comprising:

a transmitter for transmitting packets of data;

a controller for controlling the transmitter to transmit a series of messages of a first type outside ~~a the~~ network of low power radio frequency transceivers, the apparatus being arranged to form the network of transceivers, and for punctuating the series of messages of a first type with messages of a second type, transmitted within the network of transceivers, for maintaining synchronization.

20. (Currently Amended) The apparatus ~~A low power radio frequency transceiver~~ as claimed in claim 19 arranged to operate as a master of the radio network of slave transceivers.

21. (Currently Amended) The apparatus ~~A low power radio frequency transceiver~~ as claimed in

claim 19, wherein the network of transceivers uses a first frequency hopping sequence.

22. (Currently Amended) The apparatus ~~A low power radio frequency transceiver~~ as claimed in claim 21 wherein the messages of a first type transmitted outside the network of transceivers are transmitted using a second frequency hopping sequence.

23. (Currently Amended) The apparatus ~~A low power radio frequency transceiver~~ as claimed in claim 19, wherein the messages of the second type are broadcast.

24. (Currently Amended) The apparatus ~~A low power radio frequency transceiver~~ as claimed in claim 19, wherein the controller punctuates the series of messages of a first type with a message of a second type periodically.

25. (Currently Amended) The apparatus ~~A low power radio frequency transceiver~~ as claimed in claim 19 wherein the messages of the second type do not initiate a response from any of the transceivers in the network.

26. (Currently Amended) The apparatus ~~A low power radio frequency transceiver~~ as claimed in claim 19, wherein the messages of the second type comprise a synchronization word dependent upon the identity of the apparatus ~~transmitting low power radio frequency transceiver~~.

27. (Currently Amended) The apparatus ~~A low power radio frequency transceiver~~ as claimed in claim 19, wherein messages of the second type are transmitted at a frequency dependent upon the identity of the apparatus ~~transmitting low power radio frequency transceiver~~.

28. (Previously Presented) A computer program product comprising program instructions for causing a computer to perform the method of claim 10.